

Herring

The Herring (*Clupea harengus*) is a small pelagic fish within the family of Clupeidae. Within this family, the Herring is the most studied species (Blaxter & Holliday, 1963).



Blaxter and Holliday even

denote that Herring might be the most studied species of fish in the world, partly due to its commercial importance and partly to the need for so much work before even the essentials of its complex biology could be exposed (1963). Herring can be found in both the North Sea and the Wadden Sea, where the latter is primarily used as feeding ground for two distinct groups and the first as spawning grounds for all Herring of the North Sea (Dobber & Moens, 2018). The schools of Herring migrate between these areas during the year (Bjørndal, 1988; Dobber & Moens, 2018).

History/ Population trends

Herring in the North Sea have had a large crash in stock size, which occurred in the 1970s (ICES, 2024). In 1960 the total stock size of Herring was estimated at 2 million tons (Dickey-Collas et al., 2010; ICES, 2024). In the 1970s this was reduced to an estimated 50.000 tons (Dickey-Collas et al., 2010; ICES, 2024). Furthermore, the maximum age of the caught herring decreased alongside the decrease in stock size (Dickey-Collas, 2010). Caught herring reached a maximum age of 14 years old in the 1960s, whereas this was only 5 years old in the 1970s (Dickey-Collas, 2010). After efforts to decrease fishing, the stock size has increased to about 1 million tons (Dickey-Collas et al., 2010; ICES, 2024).

Miscellaneous

- Unlike most other pelagic fish species, Herring lay their eggs on or close to the bottom of the sea (Dobber & Moens, 2018).

Diet

- Zooplankton (Dziaduch, 2011)
- Crustaceans (Dziaduch, 2011)

Sources

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